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# Sensorless Control of DC Microgrid Based on Artificial Intelligence

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**Abstract**--Nowadays, DC microgrids are preferred in the field of renewable energy. The autonomous DC microgrids aim to provide smooth power flow from renewables to loads. While satisfying certain load profiles and sustaining the power as the desired level, the control of power converters is considerable. To ascend the resilience of DC microgrids, battery storage systems (BSSs) are also used as a backup unit for supplying uninterrupted power. The main task of BSSs is to compensate for the lack of power when the load is higher than supplied power or store the surplus of power in case that the load demand is less than the extracted power. In other words, by draining and storing the power, BSSs help to increase the flexibility of the system and keep the main DC bus voltage within acceptable bounds. This study introduces artificial intelligence (AI)-based method to diminish the number of implemented sensors and control power converters without reducing efficiency. In this paper, artificial neural networks (ANNs) as a subset of AI are exploited. Diminishing the number of sensors in the control layer makes the system more reliable. To validate the effectiveness of the proposed system, offline and online time-domain simulations are performed in MATLAB/Simulink.

**Index Terms**--DC Microgrids, artificial intelligence (AI), power electronic converters, sensorless control application, battery storage system (BSS).

## I. INTRODUCTION

Microgrids can be described as a part of power grid with distributed energy resources (DERs) based on renewable energy resources (RESs), power electronics converters, energy storage systems, and loads, which can operate either standalone or interact with the utility grid [1]. DERs are expected to generate a smooth power, but it is not completely possible due to their intermittent nature. Because of this unbalanced nature, they are not adopted to operate without any converter that has a sort of control algorithms to extract maximum power efficiently. Thereby, the power electronics converters have a crucial duty in dispatching desired power [2]. In this context, the optimum operation of DERs which are the main source of microgrids is critical for uninterrupted energy transfer. Control and power management strategies of DERs affect power quality, stability, and robust performance [3], [4]. The DC microgrids have advantages when comparing to conventional AC microgrids in terms of improving efficiency, reducing the cost of electrical infrastructure [5]. Thus, a multipurpose trend

has been existing to convert microgrids from AC to DC due to certain encountered challenges such as skin effect, frequency synchronization, and reactive power control. The main benefit of a DC microgrid is that the system can perform easily with DC types of DERs [6]. So, encountered problems in a DC microgrid can be coped with easier than an AC microgrid [7].

For the sustainability, an integration of a battery storage system (BSS) may afford a flexible and dynamic energy management system to increase stability, which can be controlled with optimization techniques in DC microgrids. On the other hand, high penetration of renewables in the power system is considered to be more pretty common in the near future; thus, batteries can play a vital role in the reliable and cost-efficient grid-integration of intermittent energy sources. In other words, BSSs are indispensable units of microgrids. In microgrids, the BSS acts as a complementary source to store surplus energy and shed back to the loads when the need arises [8]–[10]. Related to literature, different kinds of traditional or modern control schemes have been implemented to improve the performance of the power converters in DC microgrids. Most of the non-linear control schemes (e.g. PI, deadbeat, multi-loop feedback, LQG, model reference adaptive, sliding mode, and hysteresis voltage control, etc.) contain some disadvantages like high switching frequencies which makes the system weaken for adequate control of the power electronic converters and result in resonance issues [11]. Conventional control approaches depending on the detailed parameters of the system model may encounter various problems in a sudden load change and in case of failure. Furthermore, non-model based approaches such as model predictive, neural networks, and fuzzy logic, which do not require a system model to overcome this situation, have been preferred in the field of power electronics recently and it has been observed to give satisfying results [12], [13].

Except for the conventional approaches, the key idea here is to handle the operation of a designed DC microgrid explicitly with artificial intelligence (AI)-aided control. AI-based smart systems intend to cope with them by developing algorithms for specific problems that cannot be solved. AI tries to mimic the mindset in the human brain, which is difficult to understand for building smart infrastructures of complicated problems [14]. Since AI does not require any information or mathematical

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model of the system in which will be applied and also not have any computational burden, thereby it can be assumed as a black-box system. AI applications in power electronics have been discussed with three aspects namely, design, control, and maintenance [15]. AI-aided systems accord effectively for power electronics-based systems in terms of easy and economical practicality [16]. Recent issues such as metaheuristic methods for control or optimization problems, lifetime estimations, system identifications, condition monitoring, and fault detection systems, reliability, etc. have mostly been mentioned in recent years [17]–[20].

To come around various issues in DC microgrids with the help of AI methods, in this work, we elucidate the application and usage of artificial neural networks (ANNs) which is a subset of AI methods to reveal the desired practicality. As well as applicability, the sustainable control of the power converters is the heart of the DC microgrids, which is vital to the system operation. The measurement sensors in the control layer will adversely affect the system if an error or failure occurs due to being vulnerable. This was our first motivation for which vulnerable sensor will be eliminated.

Since the DC microgrids suffer from the constant and pulsed load demands, the authors in [21] propose that neural network, fuzzy, reinforcement learning, etc. based-advanced control strategies for power electronic converters to alleviate the requirements of rapid response, high robustness, and large stability tolerance versus the load demand. In [22], a sensorless control method has been preferred to predict the grid voltage at remote points that cannot be sense. In particular, various sensorless control applications as ANN-based data-driven methodologies are often used for controlling power electronics and motor drives [23]. In recent years, estimator-based control has been considerable interest in wind energy conversion and motor drive systems for sensorless control by predicting the torque, flux, and speed instead of individual machine variables [24]–[26]. Similarly, the authors in [27] discuss virtual flux-based voltage and current reconstruction technique by estimating three-phase voltages and currents of a microgrid enabled with a proposed sensorless droop control strategy to improve reliability and cost-effective solution. In [28], the authors offer to implement AI-based intelligent control strategies for power converters of a hybrid energy generation system. The authors in [29] argue that the feedforward PI speed controller based on AI can estimate the speed accurately for a DC motor. To tackle with uncertainties and parameter variations in a permanent magnet synchronous machine, an ANN-based observer is performed to estimate the position, torque, and speed data in [30], [31]. To assure stability, reliability, and power quality, establishing smart systems based on AI techniques can be preferred. This approach may decrease the power uncertainty, and also make the system more robust [32]. Another effective approach [33] to operate virtual plants with decentralized estimation has been implemented through a special kind of recurrent neural networks (RNNs) named long short term memory (LSTM).

To cover mentioned themes, the focus of this paper here is to address a robust sensorless control strategy of the DC

microgrid to satisfy the load side in a cost-effective and high-reliable way by applying a feedforward neural network which is able to model static nonlinear relationship unlike RNNs. Before proceeding, it is important to note that the applying neural network is divided into two main phases regarding offline and online parts. At first, the offline mode is performed to collect enough data for training neural networks that will be a predictor. After training in offline mode, neural networks are well-tuned and ready to estimate the relevant variables. This approach proposes to prepare a well-trained and tuned network with the help of a large amount of input data in the training phase. After that, the network aims to estimate the required inputs of power converters' controller without using sensor measurements to reduce the number of voltage and current sensors. The results show that the proposed sensorless control strategy can afford to perform in variable circumstances. Briefly, the main contribution of this study can be summarized as follows:

- 1) Estimating the DC microgrid parameters used for the control layer enables to implement effective sensorless control and developing a self-contained design to increase reliability with fewer sensors data without any communication delay.
- 2) A comparison between measured and estimated values of the system to demonstrate the effectiveness of the proposed application for the DC microgrids under changing input (meteorological data) and output (constant loads) is provided.
- 3) The proposed method satisfies the loads with a rapid response, fewer oscillations, and large reliability tolerance through well-trained ANNs with high accuracy at every moment, which affects the system positively is beneficial.

The remainder of this paper is organized as follows. Section II elucidates the physical structure of the DC microgrid. Section III explains the control of a standalone DC microgrid. Proposed application is elaborated in Section IV. Section V evaluates the results and discussion of the proposed method. Finally, conclusion and future work remarks are given in Section VI.

## II. PHYSICAL STRUCTURE OF DC MICROGRID

The DC microgrid contains a photovoltaic (PV) array and a wind turbine system (WTS) with its permanent magnet synchronous generator (PMSG) as DERs, a battery bank as BSS, power electronic converters, filters, and AC loads. Fig. 1 depicts the DC microgrid system is discussed. While the PV array and wind turbine (WT) system are the main power source, the BSS is designed as a complementary power source.

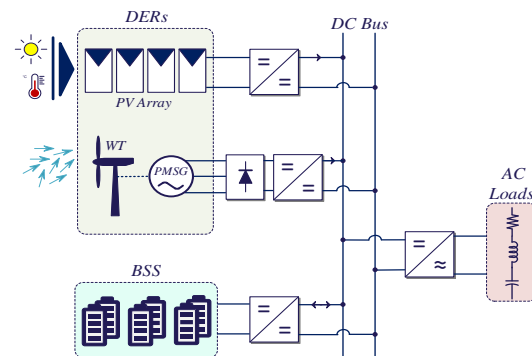


Fig. 1. General description of a DC microgrid.

The PV array is rated to 1 kW and is specified by a single diode model. A maximum power point tracking (MPPT) control takes maximum power from the solar panel using a unidirectional DC-DC boost converter. In terms of temperature and solar irradiance, the voltage and current of PV panels have been varying accordingly the power as well. The power of the PV panel  $P_{PV}$  is expressed as

$$P_{PV} = V_{PV} \cdot I_{PV}, \quad (1)$$

where,  $V_{PV}$  and  $I_{PV}$  are the voltage and current of the PV panel. Typically, an MPPT algorithm is operated in the converter control adjusting reference PV voltage- $V_{ref}$  in order to enhance the energy yield as much as possible in any condition. In addition, the MPPT algorithm is operated with a PI control that generates a duty cycle to begin PWM by sensing the difference between a reference voltage (e.g., produced from the MPPT) and instant PV voltage- $V_{PV}$ . In this way, maximum power from PV arrays to DC bus is provided easily. Perturb and observe (P&O) method is one of the most preferred MPPT algorithms was selected to examine the change in power in the voltage-power characteristic.

The WTS consists of a WT with PMSG, a rectifier, and lastly converter. The WT also boosts its power to the DC bus with a full bridge diode rectifier and unidirectional DC-DC boost converter. The wind energy conversion system has been designed as four parts. The WT of this system has a vertical axis turbine of three blades with a fixed pitch angle ( $\beta = 0^\circ$ ). The turbine has coupled with a three-phase PMSG to generate an AC power and then deliver the power to the DC bus with a full bridge diode rectifier and DC-DC boost converter. The turbine output power can be seen that it is equal to 320 W for 0.8 per unit of nominal mechanical power, so the nominal output power corresponds to 400 W at base wind speed (i.e., 12.5 m/s). The output power and mechanical torque of the wind energy conversion system can be expressed as

$$P_m = c_p(\lambda, \beta) \frac{\rho A}{2} v_{wind}^3, \quad (2)$$

where,  $P_m$  is mechanical output power of the turbine (W),  $c_p$  is the performance coefficient of the turbine is dependent on  $\lambda$  and  $\beta$ ,  $\rho$  is air density ( $\text{kg/m}^3$ ),  $A$  is the turbine swept area ( $\text{m}^2$ ),  $v_{wind}$  the wind speed (m/s),  $\lambda$  is tip speed ratio of the rotor blade tip speed to wind speed, and lastly  $\beta$  the blade pitch angle (degree).

As to the main power source, the BSS contains six pieces of batteries, three pieces connected in parallel and two pieces of them in series. To form the aforementioned BSS, the battery bank has been installed on behalf of the energy storage unit comprises of 6 pieces of battery. Each of them has a 200 Ah capacity and their output voltage is 12 V. Consequently, the capacity of the BSS is 600 Ah and its output voltage is 24 V, with 14.4 kWh energy capacity. Besides, a mathematical generic model that we used in this paper, was modeled for fast battery model development based on datasheet values. The handled model belongs to a variable battery voltage ( $V_{Batt}$ ) that can be expressed in both two modes such as discharge and charge for lead-acid battery, corresponds (3) and (4) respectively. The parameters can be adjusted to exemplify a battery type and its discharge characteristics. A typical

discharge curve is formed of three parts such as exponential, nominal, and discharge areas. While (3) expresses the function of discharge for a lead-acid battery, (4) does the function of charge.

$$V_{Batt} = E_0 - R_{Batt} i_{Batt} - K \frac{Q}{Q - i_{Batt} t} i_{Batt} t - K \frac{Q}{Q - i_{Batt} t} i^* + \exp(t), \quad (3)$$

$$V_{Batt} = E_0 - R_{Batt} i_{Batt} - K \frac{Q}{Q - i_{Batt} t} i_{Batt} t - K \frac{Q}{i_{Batt} t - 0.1Q} i^* + \exp(t), \quad (4)$$

where,  $E_0$  (V) is battery constant voltage,  $R_{Batt}$  ( $\Omega$ ) is internal resistance,  $i_{Batt} t$  actual battery charge (Ah),  $I_{Batt}$  (A) is battery discharge current,  $K$  is polarization constant (V/(Ah)),  $Q$  is battery capacity (Ah). Meanwhile, the utility grid is another main power supply. The utility grid can feed the loads while the produced power and state of charge (SoC) level of the battery bank are lower than the point that is not capable of providing power to the loads. A bidirectional inverter with an LCL filter is the key component of the system, which conducts power from the DC bus to the load side. The connection between utility grid and microgrid is controlled by a bidirectional DC-AC inverter. The parameters of the system components belong to the DC microgrid system are given in Table I, in Appendix. We modeled the system to test under changing conditions and validate the control methodology.

### III. CONTROL OF A STANDALONE DC MICROGRID

Since ANN nodes require to be trained with relevant data, we need to operate the system with any controller firstly. The general configuration and control structure of the solar energy conversion system with a boost converter which depicts acquiring the maximum power from the PV array. To reach maximum power point (MPP) calculated by the MPPT algorithm, a cascaded control mechanism drives the converter. That cascaded control mechanism is a series of voltage, current, and pulse width modulation (PWM) controller. For dynamic convergence and maximum accuracy, the step size was chosen for the P&O algorithm as 0.01 V. The uncontrolled full-bridge rectifier utilizes only diodes as switching semiconductor devices in applications, where the control of power flow is not compulsory. Additionally, a DC-DC boost converter is preferred in order to manage the power flow [34]. Then the power is dispatched to the DC bus with a unidirectional DC-DC boost converter existing by a PI reference voltage-current controller. Besides, the BSS feeds the loads permanently with a bidirectional DC-DC buck-boost converter, which is connected directly to the DC bus, even if the lack of generation exists as well. The aim of this converter is to keep the DC bus voltage and battery current on the desired level as much as possible, once the voltage changes depending on production and consumption. This purpose is managed by controlling both the DC bus voltage and the battery current with the help of cascaded-PI control structure. The operation modes of this converter can be described as buck and boost mode. While the buck mode means charging, the boost mode corresponds to discharging of the battery bank. The switching frequency is achieved for power converters as 10 kHz. As can be seen in Fig. 2, it depicts the general control structure for the whole system.

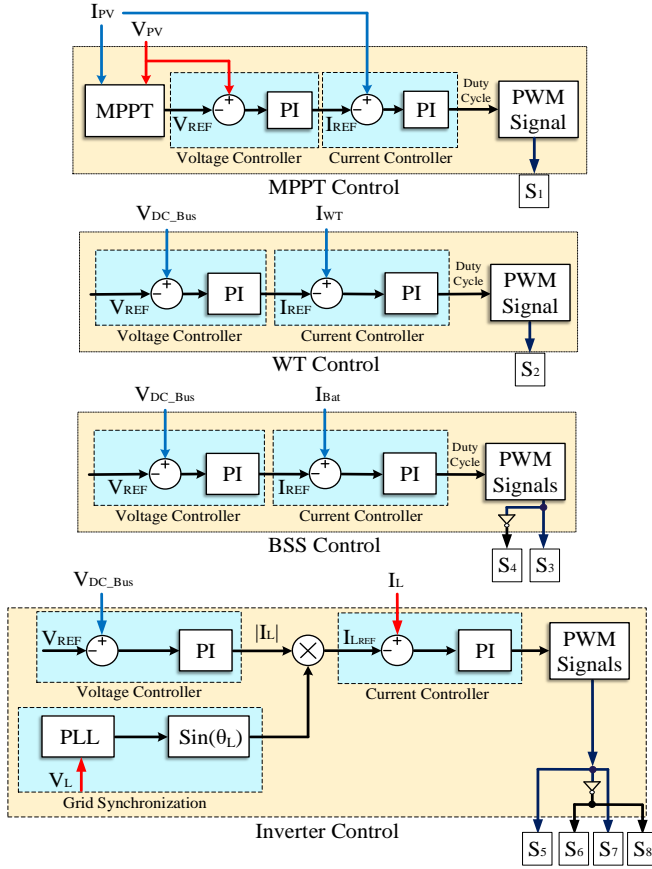


Fig. 2. Control diagram of the local controllers with cascaded-PI for training the system in offline phase.

On the other side, bidirectional DC-AC inverter dispatches the obtained power to the loads adjusting the DC bus voltage and providing the grid synchronization via phase-locked loop (PLL). That controller was used for two goals: i) to supply the required data for the offline training of the ANN, and ii) to contrast and analyze the performance with the proposed ANN controller under constant loads.

#### IV. PROPOSED SENSORLESS APPLICATION BASED ON ARTIFICIAL NEURAL NETWORKS

The classical control based on a PI or linear controller is not fully capable of capturing all system dynamics. To this end, ANNs have been used in different applications. For instance, in [35], an ANN-based monitoring system for PV panel was introduced. In addition, in [36], ANNs were implemented to detect cyber-attacks in DC microgrids. Also, an ANN-based model predictive control strategy to control three-phase inverters with an LC filter is proposed by [37] to achieve lower THD and improve the steady and dynamic behavior of the system. Because of the effective performance of ANNs, they can be considered a powerful tool for different purposes such as estimation of different variables in power applications. The goal of this method is to show how ANN can be used properly in DC microgrid to reduce the number of sensors. To control DC microgrids, data related to voltage and current of converters should be gathered and sent to the controller to manage the

DERs. In this study, we aimed to implement one of the basic neural network structure to keep simplicity.

When examining the structure of the feedforward neural network, it is worth mentioning that elements of feedforward neural network are separated layers. The signs from the input layer to the output layer are transmitted by a one-way connection. While being a link from one layer to the next, no link exists in the same layer. In feedforward networks, the outputs of the cells in the layers are the input of the next layer. If the layer by layer network is examined, the input layer transmits the information from the external environment to the cells in the intermediate (hidden) layer without making any changes. The output of the network is calculated by processing it in the hidden layers and the output layer. To sum up, the feedforward network can model static nonlinear relationships (unlike recurrent networks that model dynamic relationships). Since only static relationships are needed, the feedforward networks would be sufficient. Similarly, the feedforward networks can generally respond to problems such as classification, regression, and prediction by applying the delta learning rule. For the input presented to the network, the output of the network is compared with the actual result. Because of these reasons, we adopted a multi-layer feedforward neural network structure which is simple and has less complexity. An ANN estimates data series of  $m(t)$ , when obtaining past values up to  $k$  pieces of  $n(t)$  series as

$$m(t) = f(n(t-1), n(t-2), \dots, n(t-k+1), n(t-k)). \quad (5)$$

Fig. 3 illustrates the structure of an ANN with  $n$  inputs and one output. In the ANN, a neuron plays a critical role and it has one or more input signals and one output signal. The input signals of a neuron can come from the neurons, which are located in the previous layer and the output signal of the neuron can go to the neurons of the next layer. In this work, ANNs with one hidden layer are implemented. Due to the proper results and also because of reducing the complexity, the number of hidden layers did not increase to a number more than one. If the ANN has  $n$  inputs, one hidden layer with  $m$  neurons, and one output, the output signal of the  $i^{th}$  ( $1 \leq i \leq m$ ) neurons of the hidden layer can be calculated as

$$z_i = f_{\text{hidden}} \left( \sum_{j=1}^n (x_j \times w_{h,j,i}) + b_{h,i} \right), \quad (6)$$

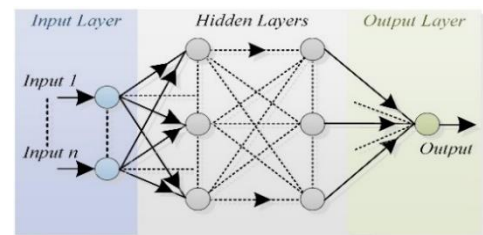


Fig. 3. The general structure of an ANN with  $n$  inputs and an output.

where,  $w_{h,j,i}$  is the weight factor between the  $j^{th}$  neuron of the input layer and  $i^{th}$  neurons of the hidden layer. Furthermore,  $b_{h,i}$  is the bias factor for the  $i^{th}$  neurons of the hidden layer. In addition,  $x_j$  is the  $j^{th}$  input of the ANN and  $z_i$  is the output of the  $i^{th}$  neurons of the hidden layer. In (6),  $f_{\text{hidden}}(\cdot)$  is the activation



factor of the hidden layer. Also, the output of the ANN can be expressed as

$$y = f_o \left( \sum_{j=1}^m (z_j \times w_{o,j}) + b_o \right). \quad (7)$$

In (7),  $y$  is the output of the ANN and  $w_{o,j}$  is the weight factor between the  $j^{th}$  neuron of the hidden layer and the neuron of the output layer. Also,  $b_o$  is the bias factor of the neuron in the output layer and  $f_o(\cdot)$  is the activation factor of the output layer. To implement the ANN, it is important to train the model with a well-tuned. The goal of the training is to calculate the optimized and proper values of the weight factors and bias factors of the neurons for the ANN. The sets of  $W_h$ ,  $W_o$ ,  $B_h$ , and  $B_o$  represent the weighting factors between the input layer and the hidden layer, the weighting factors between the hidden layer and the output layer, bias factors of the hidden layer, and bias factor of the output layer of the ANN, respectively.  $W_h$ ,  $W_o$ ,  $B_h$ , and  $B_o$  are given as

$$W_h = \{w_{h,j,i} | 1 \leq j \leq n \text{ and } 1 \leq i \leq m\}, \quad (8)$$

$$W_o = \{w_{o,j} | 1 \leq j \leq m\}, \quad (9)$$

$$B_h = \{b_{h,i} | 1 \leq i \leq m\}, \quad (10)$$

$$B_o = \{b_o\}. \quad (11)$$

To train the ANN, inputs and output data should be gathered. Then, the gathered data can be used to create input and output data sets, and based on which are the optimized values of the  $W_h$ ,  $W_o$ ,  $B_h$ , and  $B_o$  can be obtained. After the calculation of the weight and bias factors, the well-tuned ANNs can be implemented in the system.

Upon evaluating the trained neural networks, two terms possess high importance as mean squared error ( $MSE$ ) and correlation coefficient ( $R$ ). The smaller  $MSE$  denotes more accurate predictions. Accordingly, if  $R$  converges to 1, it corresponds that the accuracy of the network is higher. These terms are expressed as

$$MSE = \sqrt{P(e-d)^2}, \quad (12)$$

$$R = \frac{1}{m} \sum_{r=1}^m \left( \frac{e - \mu_e}{\sigma_e} * \frac{d - \mu_d}{\sigma_d} \right), \quad (13)$$

where,  $P$  is the expected value,  $e$  is the predicted value,  $d$  is the desired values of the proposed method, and also  $\mu_d$ , and  $\sigma_d$  are the mean and standard deviation of desired values, respectively.

Primarily, the outputs of the ANNs that have a static relationship with inputs are appointed with the aim of eliminating the data sensing for control layers. Subsequently, pertinent inputs to be selected for outputs are determined. Once the system operates at the training phase, inputs and outputs of the ANNs are gathered to be trained with the help of being measured variables such as relevant meteorological, current, and voltage data. Obtaining satisfactory results from the trained ANNs is related to the selection of proper data with enough sampling time. After getting desirable training results, the determined sensor data are deactivated and the outputs of the ANNs are linked to the controllers at the exploitation phase. Fig. 4 shows the training and also exploitation phases of the

ANNs. It should be noted that the training phase is done offline for the ANNs. For the better extraction of the system's dynamic and having better estimation capability, the historical values of the inputs are considered in Appendix, Table II explains the ANNs features that have been implemented. For a better illustration of the implementation of the ANNs, there will be a substantial number of sensors that are not needed anymore. These eliminated sensors data can be observed in Fig. 5, (i.e. estimated data) which have been estimated through the ANNs. In terms of improving the reliability of the system, requiring fewer sensor data are considerable.

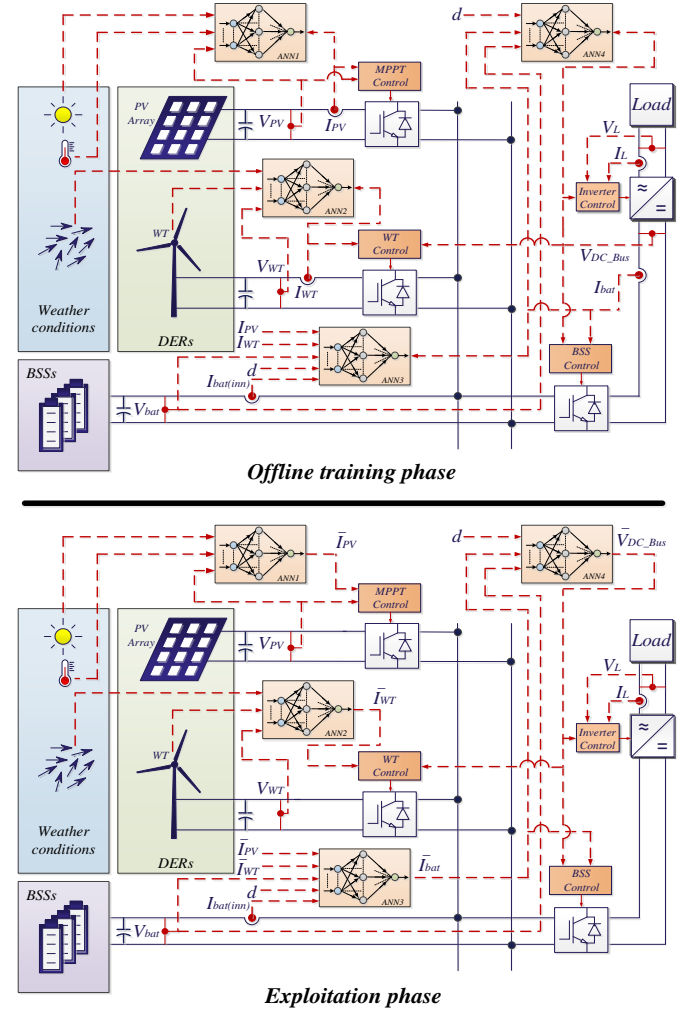


Fig. 4. The offline training and exploitation phases of the ANNs.

Also, Fig. 5 depicts a summary version of Fig. 4 after the offline phase, namely, in the exploitation phase. Table III illustrates the inputs and outputs of ANNs for each power converter. At first, for MPPT control in the DC-DC boost PV converter, the output PV voltage ( $V_{PV}$ ), the solar irradiance ( $G$ ), and temperature ( $T$ ) data are located as inputs, then the output PV current ( $I_{PV}$ ) is estimated. For the WTS, the torque ( $T_M$ ) applied to the generator shaft, the wind speed ( $W_s$ ), and the output WT voltage ( $V_{WT}$ ) are obtained as inputs. Then the output WT current ( $I_{WT}$ ) is estimated in a similar way. The estimated output currents ( $\bar{I}_{PV}$  and  $\bar{I}_{WT}$ ), the inner battery current ( $I_{Bat(inn)}$ ), the battery bank voltage ( $V_{Bat}$ ), and duty cycle ( $d$ ) of the DC-DC buck-boost battery converter are taken into consideration to

estimate the output current of the battery bank ( $I_{Bat}$ ). Lastly, the estimated  $\hat{I}_{Bat}$  facilitates for obtaining the DC bus voltage ( $V_{DC\_Bus}$ ) with  $V_{Bat}$  and  $d$  inputs for inverter control. Totally, four sensors can be reduced for whole control levels apart from the reduced number of sensors for each controller in Table III.

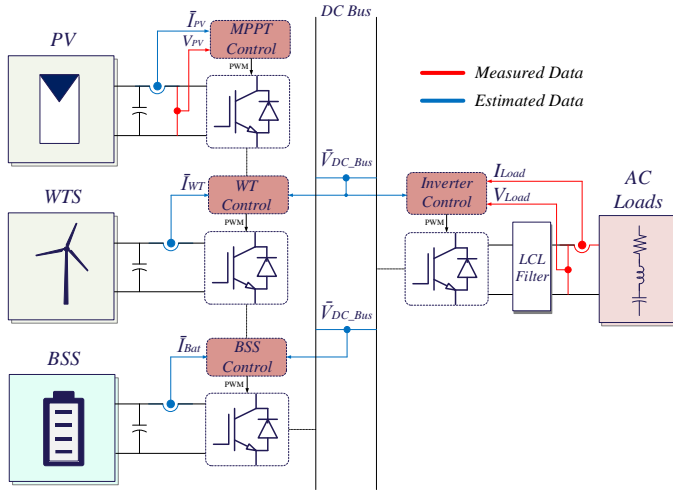


Fig. 5. Summary of the circuit configuration and control structure of the microgrid enabled by proposed sensorless AI-based control strategy.

## V. SIMULATION RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Before proceeding, it is noteworthy to consider that the cascaded-PI reference voltage-current controller has been adopted as a main controller of the system. Similarly, in [38], sudden variations can be controlled effectively using the same cascaded-PI controller for PV-Battery-based applications. As proposed by [39], the evidence we have comprehended the benefit to prefer a cascaded-PI voltage-current controller for a hybrid wind-solar-battery-based microgrid. Further optimal operations of DERs is an effective way of providing the resilient response of the DC microgrids, which are carried out in [40] with implementing cascaded-PI for primary control of BSS. In order to compare our promising results that are obtained through the applied controllers, we found it appropriate to perform cascaded-PI on the system as a robust basis.

As expected, our results prove that the availability of the estimated signals overlaps with the real measured ones. The substantiates of the results support previous findings in the literature such as excellent steady-state performance, fewer harmonics, and dynamic operation. According to simulation results, the findings validate that all loads are fed smoothly. The generated duty cycle of the PV converter is perturbed by a fixed-step. The continuous perturbation results in undesired oscillation in the steady-state operation. Instead of the control signal with undesired oscillation, it is pretty convenient to generate the estimated control signal without oscillation due to the step size of the MPPT. The input profile for PV and WTS depicts the operating conditions, such as the ambient temperature, solar irradiance, and wind speed. These exposed data are varied with meteorological conditions. In Fig. 6, a variable input profile data defined in the simulation have been used to resemble a real profile.

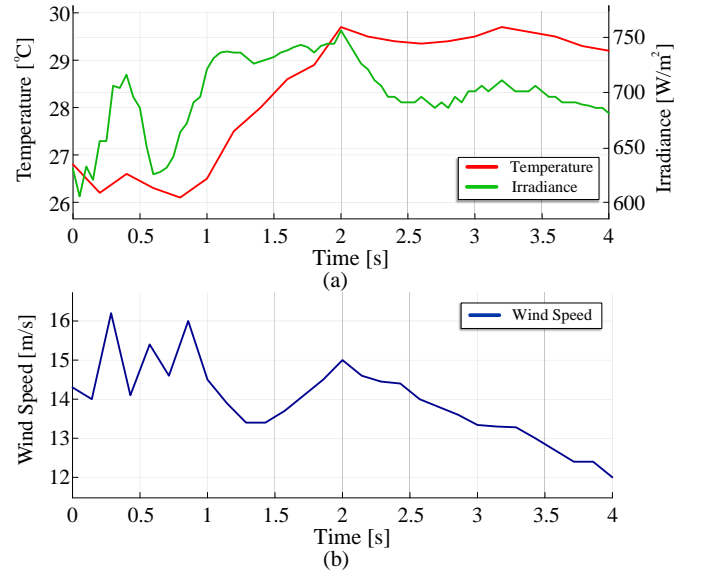


Fig. 6. Instantaneous input profile during simulation period: (a) Temperature and solar irradiance for PV, (b) wind speed for WTS.

As seen in Fig. 7, the real i.e., measured and estimated currents for the MPPT control of the PV array converter are expressed by the measured and estimated values ( $I_{PV}$  and  $\hat{I}_{PV}$ ). Similarly, the measured and estimated values of the WT current ( $I_{WT}$  and  $\hat{I}_{WT}$ ) can be shown in Fig. 8.

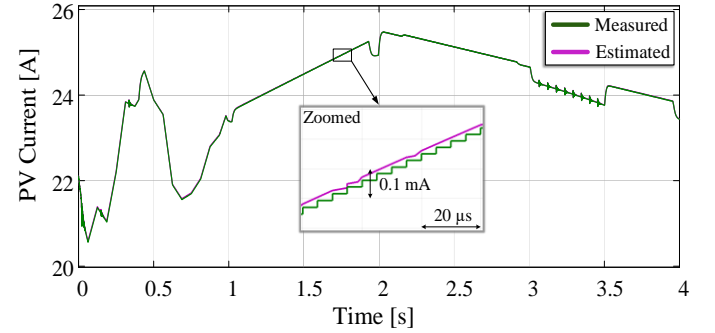


Fig. 7. Measured and estimated currents for the MPPT control of PV array.

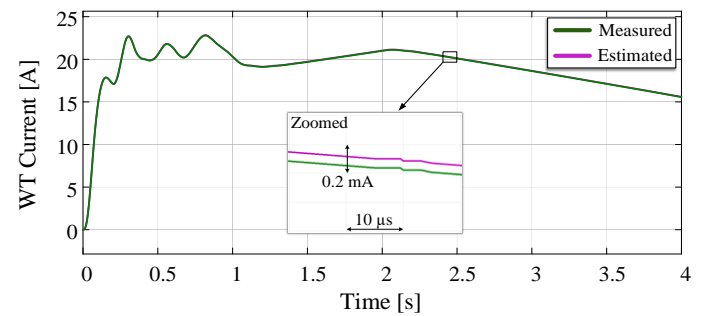


Fig. 8. Measured and estimated currents for the WTS control.

As shown in Fig. 9, the measured and estimated values of the BSS currents ( $I_{Bat}$  and  $\hat{I}_{Bat}$ ) are displayed. Fig. 10 elucidates the measured and estimated DC bus voltages ( $V_{DC\_Bus}$  and  $\hat{V}_{DC\_Bus}$ ) that we have in the system likewise. The rated powers and feeding times of the AC loads are given in Table I. It can be observed by injecting the current in Fig. 9 and also decreasing the voltage in Fig. 10, as compared with the powers of the loads.

For a different event, the status of the instantaneous power dispatch can be seen by switching Load IV ON and OFF when Load III is activated.  $I_{Bat}$  and  $V_{DC\_Bus}$ , which constitute one of the main variables of power to the inverter through the DC bus, respond to load changes faster with the proposed method.

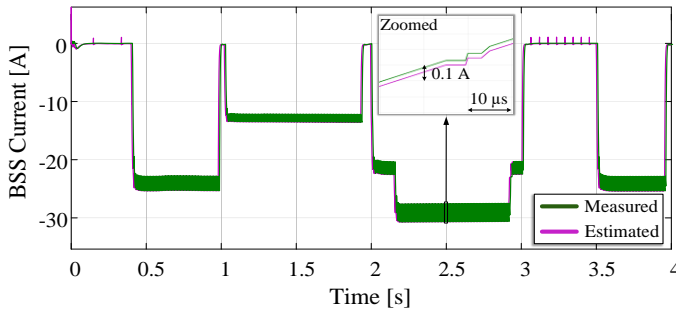


Fig. 9. Measured and estimated currents for BSS control.

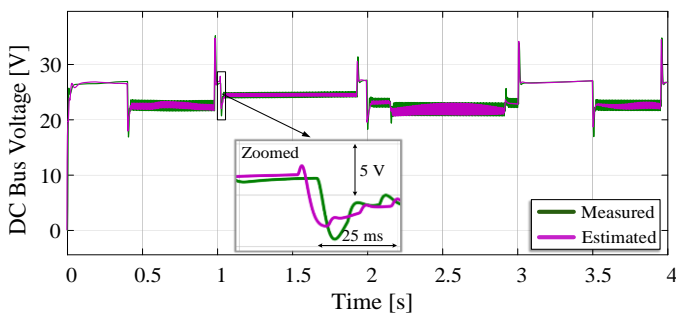


Fig. 10. Measured and estimated voltages for BSS and inverter control.

Without applying the proposed method, the impact of communication delay of the sensors is approximately 10 ms, which can be seen in Figs. 11 and 12. On the other hand, the steady-state oscillation difference between the measured and estimated data exists, and the oscillation in the proposed method is less. In other words, as can be noticed, the peak to peak amplitude of oscillations in steady-state operation (i.e., while the load is ON) regarding the estimated current proves superior performance more than the measured one because of being fewer.

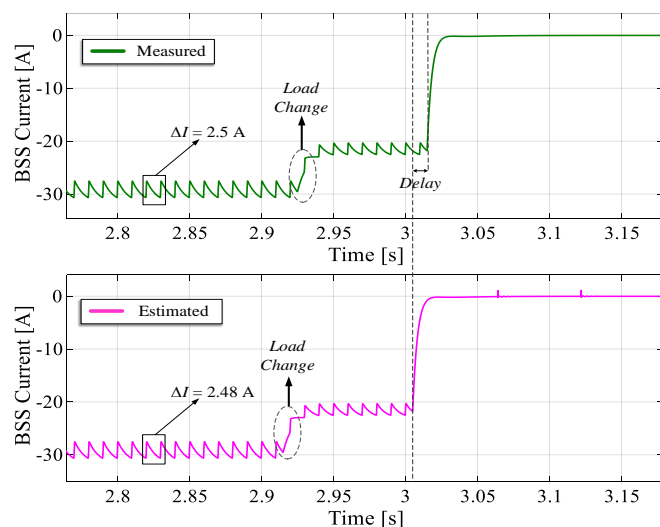


Fig. 11. Impact of communication delay among measured and estimated currents for BSS control under load change.

Similarly, Fig. 12 presents the impact of communication delay between the measured and estimated DC bus voltage on the relevant controller under load change. Also, compared between both methods, it is explicit that the steady-state oscillation is superior in the proposed method.

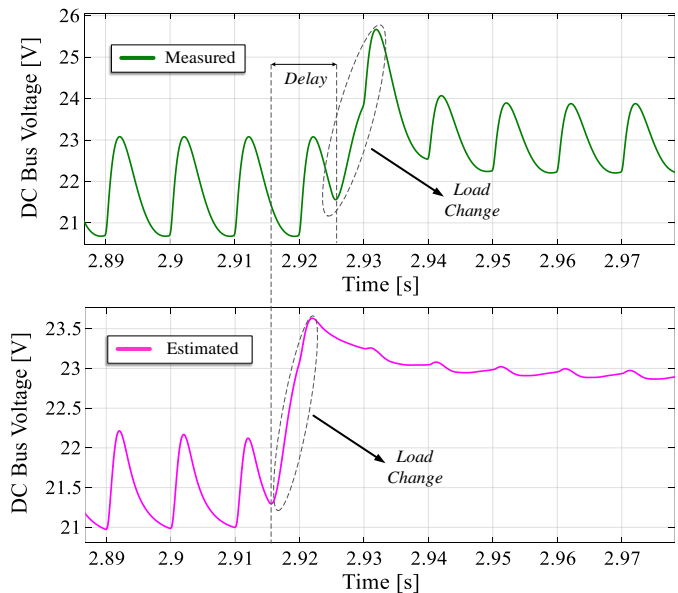


Fig. 12. Impact of communication delay among measured and estimated DC bus voltages for BSS and inverter control under load change.

A comparison of measured (i.e., existing PI-controller) and estimated (i.e., ANN-based controller) values is shown in Fig. 13 in some load change time intervals. As seen in Fig. 13(a)  $\hat{V}_{DC\_Bus}$  shows superior performance compared to  $V_{DC\_Bus}$  regarding overshoot, oscillation, and slew rate. Moreover, another comparison between measured and estimated BSS currents is also indicated in Fig. 13(b) under responses of load change. For another load change time interval, a comparison of measured and estimated values can be seen in Fig. 14, additionally. As can be observed in Figs. 13 and 14 the robustness of estimated signals can be distinguished evidently.

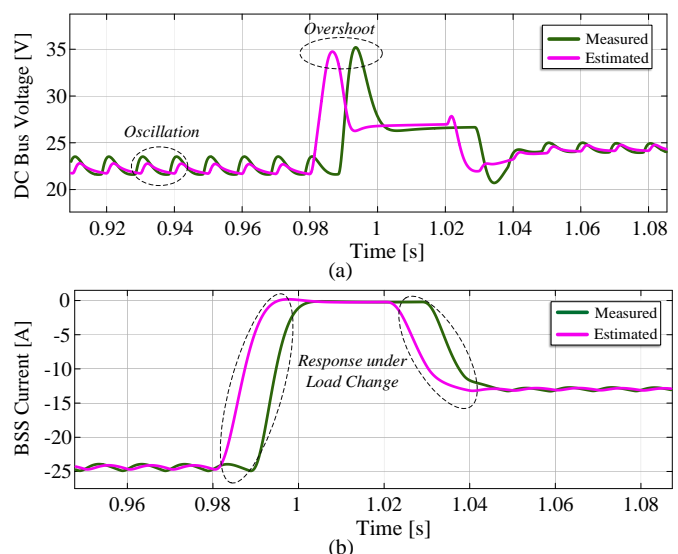


Fig. 13. Comparison of measured and estimated (a) DC bus voltages and (b) BSS currents under load change.



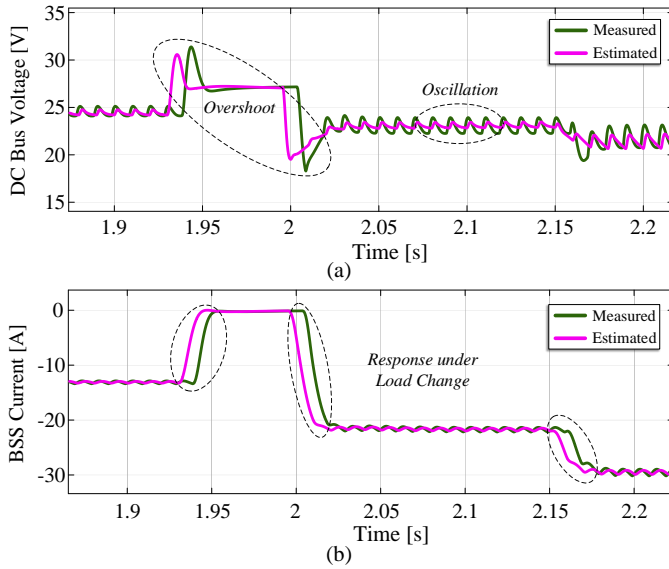


Fig. 14. Comparison of measured and estimated (a) DC bus voltages and (b) BSS currents under load change related to another time interval.

Once no-load exists in the system and also input values such as temperature, irradiance, and wind speed are variable and reasonable levels. Thus, that enables the SoC of the BSS is pretty satisfying and increasing rapidly, then the neural networks generate higher error values more than the other times. In other words, the error increases with the sudden charge of the batteries under the condition where the loads are not active and the inputs of DERs have satisfactory conditions. Thereby, we could infer that the proposed method can track the relevant signal with less error under load (output i.e., not input) changing conditions. Implemented ANNs are capable of controlling the changes rapidly. Furthermore, for the estimation of the WTS control (i.e.,  $\hat{I}_{WT}$ ), the percentage error value has a better rate than the others. When the loads are involved in the operation, it is expected that the error will increase with the change of the DC bus voltage, and then this situation can be observed to realize clearly. As can be expressed in Fig. 15, the error rates of these estimated values are shown in percent.

In this study, the best validation performance of  $MSE$  was obtained as  $8.156e-11$  at 1000 epochs and correlation coefficient- $R$  (i.e., all regression values after training, validation, and test sets) as 1 for ANN2. As can be seen obviously in Figs. 4 and 5, four main controllers have critical duties in the system such as MPPT, WT, BSS, and Inverter control. Four different ANNs were created to manage these controllers. ANN1 and ANN2 are operated for MPPT, WT, and BSS control with their output predicted values. Similarly, ANN3 is used for BSS and inverter control, whereas ANN4 is for WT, BSS, and inverter control. On the other hand, the success rates of these ANNs are shown in Table IV. Best performance of  $MSE$ s and all regression values i.e., training, validation, and lastly test sets of  $R$  are given for each ANN as well. Regarding the implementation phase, the dataset has been shared with having split up training, validation, and testing parts. We have embedded  $800001 \times (Nb \text{ of inputs})$  matrix, representing dynamic data  $800001-1$  time steps of input

elements and targeted  $800001 \times 1$  matrix as output, representing dynamic output data  $800001-1$  time steps of 1 element.

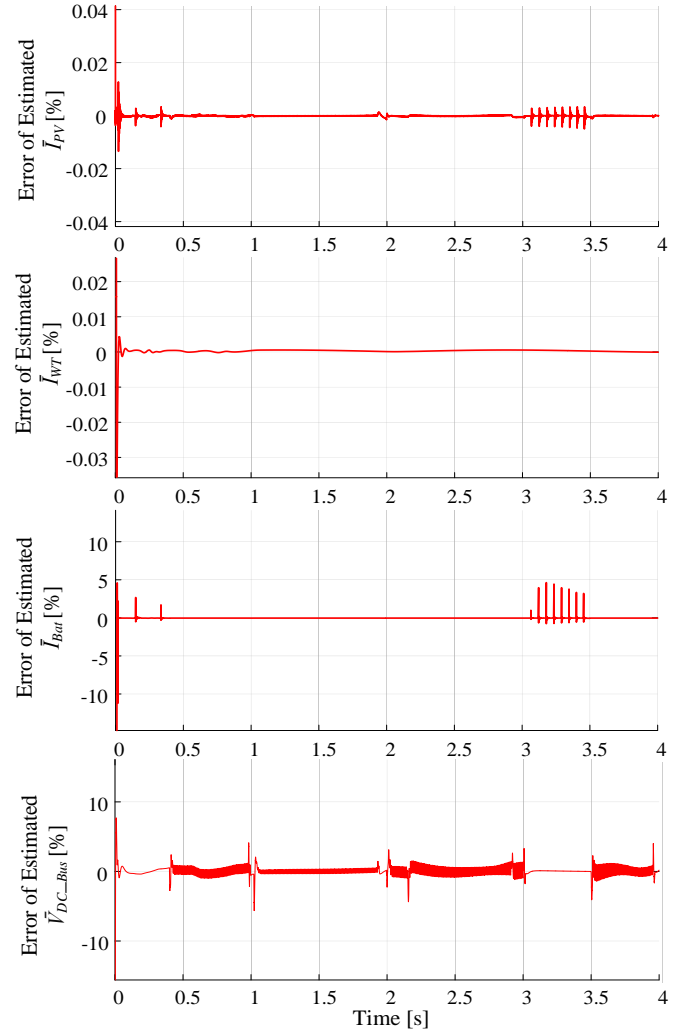


Fig. 15. The percentage error of estimated values.

Estimating the data with less oscillation which influences the system positively is profitable. On the other hand, it is evident that the amount of percent error is less than 10%, that is, a high accuracy estimator at every moment of the simulation. As mentioned before, the load power at the moment when two loads are activated at the same time is also depicted in Fig. 16. The correlation between real and estimated controller is worth mentioning because the load power is not supposed to deviate from its conventional route scarcely like PI. The proposed control methodology makes the DC microgrid reliable by reducing the number of sensors and reducing the vulnerability to communication disturbance, which also decreases the cost of ownership of the sensors in the system. Besides, the sensors are eliminated as a result of performing with multi-layer feedforward ANNs which have a simple structure to be able to exploit the system with fast responses.

On the other hand, even trained networks by some sort of the signals that are received with the help of cascaded-PI cannot capture all the dynamics; however, the error rate of PI-trained neural networks is reasonably low in the system. In the training phase, the output of each network is fed by the main controller

i.e., cascaded-PI. Supposing that the training process comprises a more suitable data set to be produced with the help of a better controller, the ANN is obvious that it can reach better results for the next exploitation phase.

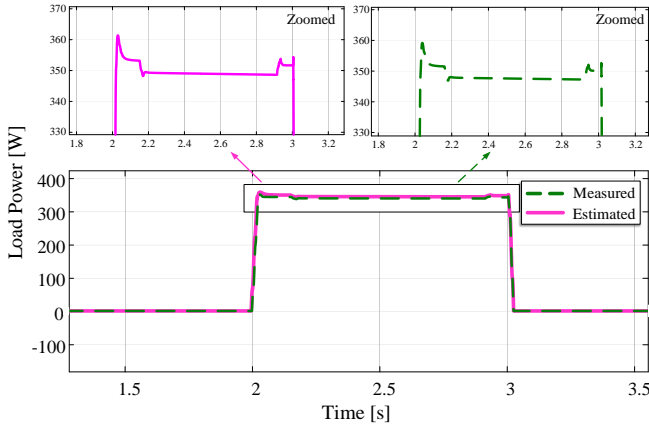


Fig. 16. Load power characteristic among the time interval of Load III and IV for cascaded-PI and ANN-based controller.

## VI. CONCLUSION AND FUTURE WORK

In this paper, without reducing the efficiency of the control application, an AI-based sensorless control has been highlighted and applied for the DC microgrid structure with the help of a nonlinear input-output neural network. This type of ANN is easy to apply and has proper estimating results with less complexity. Cascaded-PI-based current and voltage controllers have been performed to achieve the data essential for the offline training. To prove the effectiveness of the proposed control system, offline and online time-domain simulations have been implemented successfully under various operation conditions.

Reducing the number of sensors with that proposed method enables to eliminate the effect of communication delay which is caused by the sensors. The findings of this study support that the proposed controller has outperformed the conventional controller when compared to satisfying the loads with a rapid response, fewer oscillations, and larger reliability tolerance. The strong point of our work lies in envisaging four sensors data among all seven critical sensors data in the control of power electronic converters. Eliminating the number of sensors in the control layer has boosted the system's reliability as they do not require to be observed anymore. Our approach could be applied to DC microgrids.

With regard to, one of our future works; a comparison of another ANN output and its performance can be applied which is trained by different controllers such as sliding mode or model predictive controller instead of cascaded-PI. Secondly, for the exploitation of more complex systems, a controller design to be based on a deep learning model by increasing the number of hidden layers in addition to the used type of ANNs for a more up-to-date network structure is within our scope.

## APPENDIX

TABLE I

PARAMETERS OF ENERGY CONVERSION SYSTEM COMPONENTS

PV ARRAY	
Rated Maximum Power-Pm (kW)	1
Maximum Power Current-Imp (A)	32.68
Maximum Power Voltage-Vmp (V)	30.6
Short Circuit Current-Isc (A)	34.83
Open Circuit Voltage-Voc (V)	36.3
Module Efficiency- $\eta$ (%)	15.40
WIND TURBINE	
Turbine Type	Vertical Axis
Rotor Diameter (m)	1.17
Startup Wind Speed (m/s)	3.58
Survival Wind Speed (m/s)	49.2
Output Voltage (V)	24
Rated Power (W)	400
BATTERY STORAGE SYSTEM	
Battery Type	Lead-Acid
Nominal Voltage (V)	12
Nominal Capacity (Ah)	200
Internal Resistance (m $\Omega$ )	3.4
Cut-off Voltage (V)	9
Fully Charge Voltage (V)	13.6
AC LOADS	
Load I (0.40s - 0.98s & 3.5s - 3.95s)	440 W
Load II (1.02s - 1.93s)	260 W
Load III (1.99s - 3.00s)	350 W
Load IV (2.15s - 2.91s)	160 W

TABLE II

FEATURES OF USED ANNS UNDER SYSTEM

USED ANN	FEATURES			
	NB OF INPUT	NB OF OUTPUT	NB OF HIDDEN NEURONS	NB OF DELAYS
ANN1	3	1	10	5
ANN2	3	1	10	2
ANN3	5	1	10	2
ANN4	3	1	10	6

TABLE III

INPUTS AND OUTPUTS OF ANNS' ELEMENTS

USED SPACE	ANN-ELEMENTS		REDUCED NB OF SENSORS
	INPUT	OUTPUT	
ANN1	$G, T, V_{PV}$	$\bar{I}_{PV}$	1
ANN2	$T_M, W_S, V_{WT}$	$\bar{I}_{WT}$	1
ANN3	$\bar{I}_{PV}, \bar{I}_{WT}, \bar{I}_{Bat(m)}, V_{Bat}, d$	$\bar{I}_{Bat}$	3
ANN4	$\bar{I}_{Bat}, V_{Bat}, d$	$\bar{V}_{DC-Bus}$	2

TABLE IV

SUCCESS RATES OF ANNS ON RELEVANT CONTROLLER

USED ANN	FEATURES		
	RELEVANT CONTROLLER	BEST PERFORMANCE OF MSE	R (TRA+VAL+TEST)
ANN1	MPPT and BSS Control	1.894e-7	0.99983
ANN2	WT and BSS Control	8.156e-11	1
ANN3	BSS and Inverter Control	11.866e-5	0.98966
ANN4	WT, BSS, and Inverter Control	8.223e-4	0.98979

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